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FAMILY INCOME IN THE UNITED STATES: 1955

(Data on the income of persons in 1955 appear in the report "Income of Persons in the United States: 1955," Series P-60, No. 23. Advance estimates on family income were issued last September in Series P-60, No. 22)

Average (median) money income of families in the United States was estimated at \$4,400 in 1955, or about 6 percent higher than in 1954, according to estimates released today by the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce. This increase probably represented a significant gain in purchasing power for the average family, since prices were fairly stable during this period.¹

The average income of nonfarm families increased by about 7 percent between 1954 and 1955, largely because of wage rate increases and greater regularity of employment among nonagricultural workers. In contrast, the average money income of rural-farm families did not change significantly over the year. The stability in the income of farm families despite a drop in farm prices is due largely to their increased earnings from nonfarm work. A large and increasing proportion of the farm population derives at least part of its income from employment off the farm.

Of the Nation's 43 million families, about 18 million, or two-fifths, received incomes of \$5,000 or more in 1955, while 7½ million, or one-fifth, had incomes under \$2,000.

¹ The Consumer Price Index of the Department of Labor averaged 114.8 in 1954 and 114.5 in 1955.

The remaining 17½ million families were in the \$2,000-\$5,000 bracket. The distribution of families (groups of two related persons or more) by their income in 1955 is shown in table A.

Table A.--NUMBER OF FAMILIES BY FAMILY INCOME, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1955

(Figures derived from data in table 1 and rounded to the nearest 100,000)

Family income	Number of families
Total.....	42,800,000
Under \$1,000.....	3,300,000
\$1,000 to \$1,999.....	4,200,000
\$2,000 to \$2,999.....	4,700,000
\$3,000 to \$3,999.....	6,300,000
\$4,000 to \$4,999.....	6,600,000
\$5,000 to \$5,999.....	5,400,000
\$6,000 to \$6,999.....	4,100,000
\$7,000 to \$9,999.....	5,500,000
\$10,000 to \$14,999.....	2,100,000
\$15,000 and over.....	600,000

The 1955 income data presented in this report were obtained from information collected in the Bureau's Current Population Survey in March 1956. The survey covered the civilian noninstitutional population and members of the Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post in continental United States.

Income as defined in this report represents the combined total money income of the family, or the sum of money wages and salaries, net income from self-employment, and income other than earnings received by all family members during the calendar year. The median income is the amount which divides the distribution into two equal groups, one having incomes above the median and the other having incomes below the median.

Since the estimates in this report are based on a sample, they are subject to sampling variability. Particular care should be exercised in the interpretation of figures based on relatively small numbers of cases as well as small differences between figures. Moreover, as in all field surveys of income, the figures are subject to errors of response and nonreporting.

Other data relating to the income received by the population are available from the Personal Income Series of the Department of Commerce, the Federal Reserve Board Survey of Consumer Finances, Federal income tax data, and Old-Age and Survivors Insurance wage record data. These data are collected for different purposes and, therefore, differ from the Current Population Survey income data in several important respects. A discussion of the comparability of these data may be found in Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 23, "Income of Persons in the United States: 1955."

INCOME OF NONFARM FAMILIES RESUMES POSTWAR RISE; INCOME OF FARM FAMILIES UNCHANGED

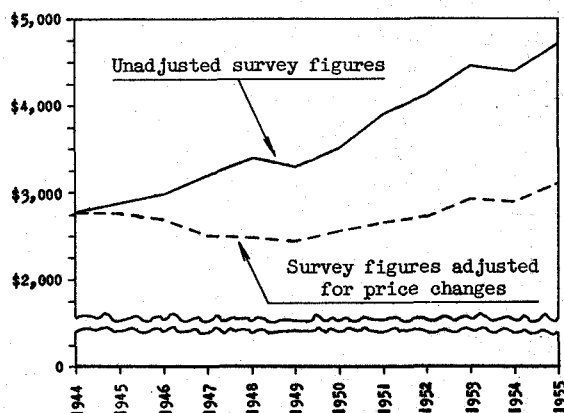
Average family income, which had been almost unchanged between 1953 and 1954, rose by 6 percent in 1955. The median income for all families was estimated at \$4,400² in 1955, about \$250 higher than in the two previous years.

The median income of nonfarm families was \$4,700 in 1955. This median, which has been rising fairly steadily since the end of World War II, was \$300 higher than a year earlier and about \$1,500, or 50 percent, higher than in 1947. In contrast, the median income of

rural-farm families--at \$2,100--did not change significantly between 1954 and 1955 and was not much different from the 1947 average.

In 1955, for the first time in the postwar period, the average purchasing power of nonfarm families appears to have exceeded significantly the World War II level. As shown by the data in figure 1, the more-or-less steady increases in money income during the postwar period have been largely offset, or for certain periods more than offset, by the rising cost of living. In 1955, however, the increase in money incomes, at a time when prices were stable, pushed the adjusted income level above the World War II peak. The price-adjusted data shown in this figure were derived by dividing the median money income for each year by the Consumer Price Index compiled by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This adjustment is a very rough one and the results cannot be regarded as more than approximations.

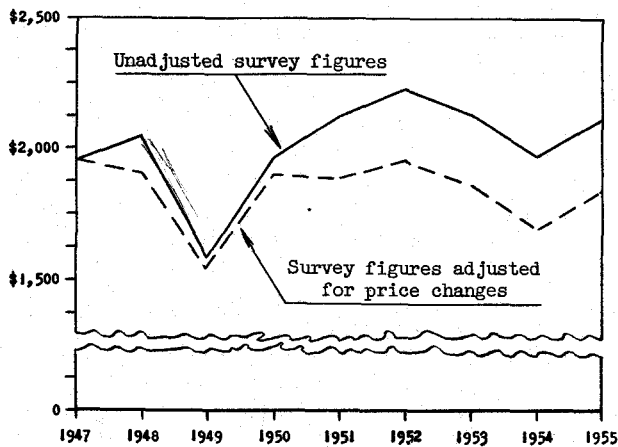
Figure 1.--MEDIAN INCOME OF NONFARM FAMILIES, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1944 TO 1955



The income of farm families has followed a less consistent pattern than that of the nonfarm group. The median money income of farm families hit a low point in 1949, then rose substantially during the Korean conflict, and leveled off at a slightly lower figure since that time (figure 2). The adjustment of the rural-farm medians for changes in price levels by use of the Index of Prices Paid by Farmers for Family Living, compiled by the Department of Agriculture, does not alter this pattern significantly. The low points, on a price-adjusted basis, were during the two recession years of 1949 and 1954.

² Medians cited in the text are taken from the detailed tables and are rounded to hundreds of dollars.

Figure 2.--MEDIAN INCOME OF RURAL-FARM FAMILIES, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1947 TO 1955



The relative stability in the income of rural-farm families even during periods of

falling farm prices stems partly from the fact that a large and growing proportion of the farm population derives at least part of its monetary income from employment off the farm. As the data in table B below indicate, the earnings of only 25 percent of the farm families came entirely from the operation of a farm in 1955. About 38 percent supplemented income from farm operations with earnings from other sources--mainly nonfarm. The remaining 37 percent of farm families had no money income at all from a farm enterprise, depending entirely on nonfarm earnings, farm wages, or other sources of income. The receipt of off-the-farm income by farm families has been increasing rapidly in recent years. The proportion of farm families with some income other than that from operation of a farm has advanced from 70 percent in 1949 to over 80 percent currently.

Table B.--RURAL-FARM FAMILIES BY SOURCE OF MONEY INCOME, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1949 TO 1955

Source of money income	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949
Total ¹	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
With farm self-employment income.....	63	63	64	56	61	63	68
Without other kinds of earnings.....	25	30	32	31	35	34	38
With other kinds of earnings ²	38	33	32	25	26	29	30
Without farm self-employment income....	37	37	36	44	39	37	32
Wages or salaries only.....	17	18	18	24	21	16	17
Other combinations ¹	20	19	18	20	18	21	15

¹ Includes a relatively small number of families with no money income.

² Includes a relatively small number of families without farm self-employment income.

"BIG CITY" DWELLERS HAVE HIGHER INCOME

In 1955, as in previous years, the income of families living in large cities was substantially higher than that of residents of smaller towns or rural areas. For families living in urbanized areas with a population of 1,000,000 or more, the median income was \$5,300 in 1955 as compared with \$4,900 in other urbanized areas, about \$4,100 for towns with less than 25,000 people, and finally \$2,100 in the rural-farm group (table 1). One of the factors which accounts for the higher incomes received in the large cities is the higher pay-and-price levels in these areas. The paid employment of more than one family member may also be more common in the larger cities. In addition, residents in urbanized

areas, particularly women, are more likely to work full time around the year than are those who live in the smaller places.³

SMALLEST FAMILIES HAVE HIGHEST PER CAPITA INCOME

Larger families tend to have more earners than smaller families and are more likely to be headed by persons closer to the age when their earning power is at a peak. For these reasons, the larger families--up to a certain size--generally have higher incomes. However, these higher incomes do not necessarily reflect greater economic well-being.

³ For more details, see U. S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P-60, No. 23, "Income of Persons in the United States: 1955."

In 1955, average family income rose from \$3,600 for families of two persons to about \$4,900 for families of four or five persons, and tended to decline for families of six persons or more (table 5). The picture is considerably different, however, when average per capita income is considered. The median per capita income ranged downward from about \$1,800 per person in 2-person families to about \$1,200 per person in 4-person families and less than \$600 per person in families of seven persons or more.

REGULARITY OF HEAD'S EMPLOYMENT BIG FACTOR IN FAMILY INCOME

Since most families derive their incomes entirely or largely from the employment of the family head, his continuity of work is an important factor in determining family income.

As the data in table C indicate, families headed by a person who worked at a full-time job in 1955 had a considerably higher average income (\$4,800) than those headed by a person who worked at a part-time job or by a person who did not work at all during the year because of ill health, disability, retirement, or other reasons (\$1,900 in both cases). The great majority of the family heads who were employed at full-time jobs worked 50 weeks or more during the year; the median income of their families was \$5,100. Among other families headed by full-time workers, the median income ranged from \$2,500 for those with 3 to 6 months of work to about \$4,400 for those with 9 to 11 months of work during the year. Among unrelated individuals, the median income of year-round full-time workers (\$2,900) was far above that received by part-time workers (\$900) and that for persons who did not work at all during the year (\$700).

Table C.--FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS BY FAMILY INCOME, BY EXTENT OF EMPLOYMENT OF FAMILY HEAD, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1955

Extent of employment of head	Percent distribution		Median income	
	Families	Unrelated individuals	Families	Unrelated individuals
Total.....	100.0	100.0	\$4,421	\$1,316
Worked at full-time jobs.....	83.1	56.6	4,846	2,456
50 to 52 weeks.....	66.7	38.9	5,099	2,860
48 and 49 weeks.....	3.3	2.6	4,347	(1)
40 to 47 weeks.....	5.9	4.7	4,407	(1)
27 to 39 weeks.....	3.9	4.8	3,494	(1)
14 to 26 weeks.....	2.1	3.9	2,513	(1)
13 weeks or less.....	1.2	1.7	(1)	(1)
Worked at part-time jobs.....	5.1	10.5	1,867	896
Did not work at all.....	11.9	32.9	1,905	711

¹ Median not shown where there were fewer than 100 sample cases reporting on income.

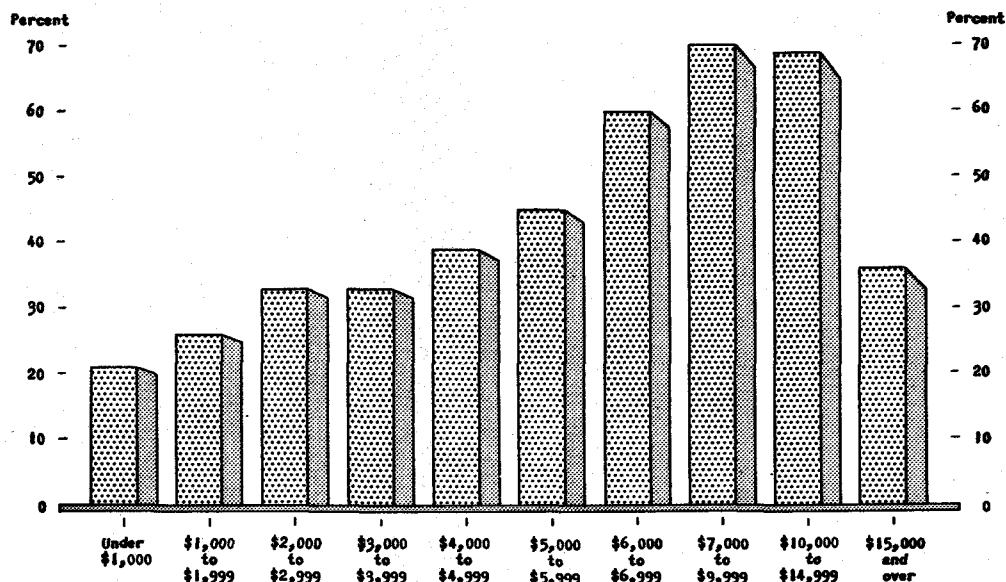
HIGHER INCOME FAMILIES HAVE MORE EARNERS

Another important determinant of the level of income attained by families is the extent to which other family members participate in the labor market. Although supplemental earners in families are often only part-time workers, they have an important influence on the economic level of the family. About two-fifths of all families in the United States had two earners or more in 1955. The incomes of these families were considerably higher, on the average, than those of families having only one earner (table 7). The median income of families with one earner was \$4,100, whereas the median for families with two earners

was \$5,300, and that for families with three earners or more was \$6,500. The relatively small number of families with no earners had a median income of \$1,300.

There are sharp differences in the extent to which families in different income brackets send more than one family member into the labor market as shown in figure 3 below. The proportion of families with more than one earner was smallest at the lowest income level (21 percent). This proportion rose progressively to about 70 percent for families with incomes between \$7,000 and \$15,000, then dropped to about 36 percent for families in the highest income bracket shown.

Figure 3.--PERCENT OF FAMILIES WITH MORE THAN ONE EARNER, BY FAMILY INCOME, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1955



PROPORTION OF WORKING WIVES RISES IN HIGHER INCOME FAMILIES

The increasing tendency of the wife to work outside the home has been one of the major factors boosting family income in recent years. As table D indicates, the average income of husband-wife families in 1955 was considerably higher for those in which the wife

was a paid worker (\$5,600) than for those in which the wife did not work or did only unpaid work on the family farm or in the family business (\$4,300). Over one-half of the families with working wives had incomes of \$5,000 or more. In contrast, about two-fifths of the families in which the wives did not work for pay had this much income.

Table D.--HUSBAND-WIFE FAMILIES BY FAMILY INCOME, BY LABOR FORCE STATUS OF WIFE IN MARCH 1956, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1955

Family income	Total	Wife in paid labor force	Wife not in paid labor force	Family income	Total	Wife in paid labor force	Wife not in paid labor force
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	\$5,000 to \$5,999.....	13.6	13.5	13.6
Under \$1,000.....	6.1	2.4	7.3	\$6,000 to \$6,999.....	10.2	14.2	8.7
\$1,000 to \$1,999.....	8.6	5.1	9.8	\$7,000 to \$9,999.....	13.6	23.2	10.3
\$2,000 to \$2,999.....	10.5	8.2	11.3	\$10,000 to \$14,999.....	5.1	6.5	4.7
\$3,000 to \$3,999.....	14.7	11.9	15.6	\$15,000 and over.....	1.5	0.9	1.6
\$4,000 to \$4,999.....	16.2	14.0	17.1	Median income.....	\$4,599	\$5,622	\$4,326

The effect of the working wife on family income is demonstrated in a somewhat different way in table E, showing labor force participation at different income levels. For the year 1955, the percent of families in which the wife is in the paid labor force rises steadily from 11 percent at the lowest income

level (\$1,000 or less) to a peak of 44 percent for families in the \$7,000-\$10,000 bracket. Moreover, increases in the wife's labor force participation since 1949 have been most pronounced at the upper income levels, suggesting that the wife's contribution has been a major factor in moving families up the income scale.

Table E.--PERCENT OF HUSBAND-WIFE FAMILIES WITH WORKING WIVES, BY FAMILY INCOME, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1949 TO 1955

Family income	1955	1953	1951	1949
Total.....	26	24	23	22
Under \$1,000.....	11	9	12	11
\$1,000 to \$1,999.....	15	15	15	17
\$2,000 to \$2,999.....	20	18	16	17
\$3,000 to \$3,999.....	21	18	18	19
\$4,000 to \$4,999.....	22	21	26	30
\$5,000 to \$5,999.....	26	29	32	33
\$6,000 to \$6,999.....	36	37	35	36
\$7,000 to \$9,999.....	44	40	38	27
\$10,000 and over.....	29	28	14	17

OTHER INCOME PUBLICATIONS

Current Population Survey.--Other data based on the Current Population Survey showing the distributions of families, unrelated individuals, and persons, by income levels, have been published in the Series P-60 reports, Nos. 1 to 23. In addition, income data for 1944 and 1945 appear in the report, "Family and Individual Money Income in the United States: 1945 and 1944," Series P-S, No. 22. Occasionally, tables have been published in reports of the P-20 or P-50 series showing the cross-classification of income and other characteristics.

1950 Census.--Distributions of persons 14 years of age and over by total money income in 1949 appear in the publication, U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1950 Census of Population, Volume II, Chapter C. Similar data for families and unrelated individuals appear in Volume II, Chapter B. Data for the United States and regions appear in Volume II, Part 1, United States Summary, while separate data for individual States are presented in the other parts. Various special reports contain additional income data; however, there is no special report dealing exclusively with income data. A preliminary report, "Estimated Distribution of Family Income in 1949 for the United States, Regions, and Selected States," Series PC-7, No. 5, presents the distribution of aggregate income among families and unrelated individuals. In addition, a monograph, "Income of the American People," sponsored jointly by the Bureau of the Census and the Social Science Research Council, was published in 1955.

1940 Census.--Data relating to wage and salary income in 1939 have been presented in several different reports of the Sixteenth Decennial Census. A complete list of these reports is shown in earlier Current Population Survey reports on consumer income.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Dwelling unit and household.--A dwelling unit is defined, in general, as a house, apartment, or other group of rooms, or a single room, occupied or intended for occupancy as separate living quarters by a family or other group of persons living together or a person living alone. A household consists of the entire group of persons who occupy a dwelling unit. Persons occupying living quarters which are not dwelling units, such as large rooming houses, dormitories, and YMCA buildings, are not regarded as households.

Family.--The term "family," as used in this report, refers to a group of two or more persons related by blood, marriage, or adoption and residing together; all such persons are considered as members of the same family. Thus, if the son of the head of the household and the son's wife are in the household, they are treated as part of the head's family. On the other hand, a lodger and his wife not related to the head of the household or an unrelated servant and his wife are considered as additional families, and not as part of the household head's family.

Unrelated individual.--The term "unrelated individuals," as used in this report, refers to persons (other than inmates of institutions) who are not living with any relatives. An unrelated individual may constitute a one-person household by himself, or he may be part of a household including one or more other families or unrelated individuals, or he may reside in a quasi household such as a hotel. Thus, a widow living by herself or with one or more other persons not related to her, a lodger not related to the head of the household or anyone else in the household, and a servant living in an employer's household with no relatives are examples of unrelated individuals.

Urban and rural residence.--The definition of urban and rural areas used in the March 1956 survey was the same as that used in the

annual income surveys since April 1951 and in the 1950 Census. This definition differs slightly from that used in the March 1950 Current Population Survey, but it is markedly different from that used in earlier surveys and censuses. The territory classified as urban is the same as that in the 1950 Census. According to the new definition, the urban population comprises all persons living in (a) places of 2,500 inhabitants or more incorporated as cities, boroughs, and villages; (b) incorporated towns of 2,500 inhabitants or more except in New England, New York, and Wisconsin, where "towns" are simply minor civil divisions of counties; (c) the densely settled urban fringe, including both incorporated and unincorporated areas, around cities of 50,000 or more; and (d) unincorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more outside of any urban fringe. The remaining population is classified as rural.

According to the definition used prior to March 1950, the urban population comprised all persons living in incorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more and in areas (usually minor civil divisions) classified as urban under special rules relating to population size and density.

Farm and nonfarm residence.--The rural population is subdivided into the rural-farm population, which comprises all rural residents living on farms, and the rural-nonfarm population, which comprises the remaining rural population. The method of determining farm and nonfarm residence in the March 1956 survey is the same as that used in the 1950 Census and in the Current Population Survey since March 1950, but differs from that used in earlier surveys and censuses. Persons on "farms" who were paying cash rent for their house and yard only were classified as nonfarm; furthermore, persons in institutions, summer camps, "motels," and tourist camps were classified as nonfarm.

Income.--For each person in the sample 14 years of age and over, questions were asked on the following items: (1) The amount of money as wages or salary received in 1955; (2) the amount of net money income received from nonfarm self-employment in 1955; (3) the amount of net money income received from farm self-employment in 1955; and (4) the amount of other income received in 1955, such as interest, dividends, veterans' allowances, pensions, or

rents. The amounts received represent income before deductions for personal taxes, social security, bonds, etc. If any amount was \$10,000 or more, it was recorded as a specific amount wherever possible. Where the specific amount was not known, the information was recorded as "\$10,000 to \$14,999," "\$15,000 to \$24,999," or as "\$25,000 or more" depending upon the respondent's best estimate. It should be noted that although income refers to receipts during 1955, the characteristics of the person, such as age, labor force status, etc., refer to March 1956.

Money wages or salary.--This is defined as the total money earnings received for work performed as an employee during the calendar year 1955. It includes wages, salary, Armed Forces pay, commissions, tips, piece-rate payments, and cash bonuses earned, before deductions were made for taxes, bonds, pensions, union dues, etc.

Net income from nonfarm self-employment.--This is defined as net money income (gross receipts minus expenses) from a business or professional enterprise in which a person was engaged on his own account. Gross receipts include the value of all goods sold and services rendered. Expenses include costs of goods purchased, rent, heat, light, power, depreciation charges, wages and salaries paid, business taxes (not personal income taxes), etc. In general, inventory changes were not considered in determining net income; however, replies based on income tax returns or other official records do reflect inventory changes. The value of salable merchandise consumed by the proprietors of retail stores is not included as part of net income.

Net income from farm self-employment.--This is defined as net money income (gross receipts minus operating expenses) from the operation of a farm by a person on his own account, as an owner, renter, or sharecropper. Gross receipts include the value of all products sold, government crop loans, money received from the rental of farm equipment to others, and incidental receipts from the sale of wood, sand, gravel, etc. Operating expenses include costs of feed, fertilizer, seed and other farming supplies, cash wages paid to farmhands, depreciation charges, cash rent, interest on farm mortgages, farm building repairs, farm taxes (not poll taxes or personal income taxes), etc. The value of fuel, food,

or other farm products used for family living is not included as part of net income. In general, inventory changes were not considered in determining net income; however, replies based on income tax returns, or other official records, do reflect inventory changes.

Income other than earnings.--This income includes net income from rents, royalties, or receipts from roomers or boarders; interest, dividends, and periodic income from estates and trust funds; pensions; veterans' payments, Armed Forces allotments for dependents, and other governmental payments or assistance; and other income such as contributions for support from persons who are not members of the household, alimony, and periodic receipts from insurance policies or annuities.

Receipts from the following sources were not included as income: Money received from the sale of property, such as stocks, bonds, a house, or a car (unless the person was engaged in the business of selling such property in which case the net proceeds would be counted as income from self-employment); withdrawals of bank deposits; money borrowed; tax refunds; gifts; and lump-sum inheritances or insurance payments.

Total money income.--This is defined as the algebraic sum of money wages and salaries, net income from self-employment, and income other than earnings. The total income of a family is the algebraic sum of the amounts received by all income recipients in the family.

Color.--Families are classified as white or nonwhite in accordance with the color of the head.

Head of family.--One person in each family was designated as the head. The head of a family is usually the person regarded as the head by members of the family. Women are not classified as heads if their husbands are resident members of the family at the time of the survey. Married couples related to the head of a family are included in the head's family and are not classified as separate families.

Size of family.--The term "size of family" refers to the number of persons who are living together and who are related to each other by blood, marriage, or adoption.

Age.--The age classification is based on the age of the person at his last birthday.

Number of children under 18 years of age.--This number includes all persons in the family under 18 years old related to the head of the family by blood, marriage, or adoption.

Number of earners.--This number includes all persons in the family with \$1 or more in wages and salaries, or \$1 or more or a loss in net income from farm or nonfarm self-employment.

Employed.--Employed persons comprise those who, during the survey week, were either (a) "at work"--those who did any civilian work for pay or profit, or worked without pay for 15 hours or more on a family farm or business; or (b) "with a job but not at work"--those who did not work and were not looking for work but had a civilian job or business from which they were temporarily absent because of vacation, illness, industrial dispute, bad weather, or layoff with definite instructions to return to work within 30 days of layoff. Also included are persons who had new jobs to which they were scheduled to report within 30 days.

Unemployed.--Unemployed persons include those who did not work at all during the survey week, and who were looking for work. Also included as unemployed are persons who would have been looking for work except that (a) they were temporarily ill, (b) they expected to return to a job from which they had been laid off for an indefinite period, or (c) they believed no work was available in their line of work or in the community.

Not in labor force.--All civilians 14 years of age and over who are not classified as employed or unemployed are defined as "not in the labor force." These persons are further classified as "keeping house," "in school," "unable to work" because of disability, and "other," the latter group including for the most part retired persons, those too old to work, seasonal workers for whom the survey week fell in an "off" season, and the voluntarily idle. Persons doing only incidental unpaid family work (less than 15 hours) are also classified as not in the labor force. In tables 8 and 9, persons in the Armed Forces are included with those not in the labor force.

Occupation, industry, and class of worker.--The data on occupation, industry, and

class of worker of employed persons refer to the job held during the survey week. Persons employed at two jobs or more were reported in the job at which they worked the greatest number of hours during the week. The occupation and industry groupings used here are largely the same as the major groups in the classification systems used in the 1950 Census of Population. The composition of each major group in terms of detailed occupations and industries is shown in Volume II of the reports of the 1950 Census of Population.

In table 8, two of the major occupation groups are subdivided by class of worker into two groups: Wage or salary workers and self-employed workers. The former refers to persons working for wages, salaries, commissions, tips, pay "in kind," or at piece-rates for a private employer or for any governmental unit. The latter refers to persons working in their own business, profession or trade, for profit or fees. Included in the self-employed groups in table 8 are unpaid family workers, i.e., persons working without pay in a business operated by a member of the household to whom they are related by blood or marriage.

Year-round full-time worker.--A year-round full-time worker is one who worked primarily at full-time jobs for 50 weeks or more during 1955. A person is classified as having worked at full-time jobs if he worked 35 hours or more per week during a majority of the weeks in which he worked during 1955.

Medians.--The median income is the amount which divides the distribution into two equal groups, one having incomes above the median, and the other having incomes below the median. The medians for total money income are based on all families and individuals. The medians for wage or salary income, income from non-farm self-employment, income from farm self-employment, and income other than earnings are based on the distributions of families and individuals having these types of income.

Percentages.--Percentages are shown as calculated; therefore, they do not always add up to exactly 100.0 percent. The totals, however, are always shown as 100.0 percent.

Base figures.--An estimate of the size of the base (number of families or individuals) of each percent distribution by income in 1955 is shown in most of the tables in this report.

The base figures are rounded to the nearest thousand without being adjusted to group totals, which are independently rounded.

SOURCE AND RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

Source of data.--The estimates presented in this report are based on data obtained in connection with the monthly population sample survey of the Bureau of the Census. The 1955 income statistics, collected in March 1956, are based on a sample design instituted in January 1954. This sample is spread over 230 sample areas comprising 453 counties and independent cities in 47 States and the District of Columbia.⁴ Data on income were collected from approximately 15,000 representative households, or about 75 percent of the households included in the March 1956 survey.

Persons in the following categories were not included:

1. Members of the Armed Forces living in barracks, etc., on military reservations. (Members of the Armed Forces living off post or with their families on military reservations were included.)

2. Inmates of penal and mental institutions and homes for the aged, infirm, and needy.

On approximately 5 percent of the 15,000 schedules, no information was recorded because no interview could be obtained during the week in which the enumeration was conducted. In order to account for these schedules, the weights assigned to other schedules for households of similar characteristics residing in the same sample areas were increased accordingly. In addition, complete income information was not reported for about 10 percent of the households. Substitutions were not made for these schedules. Punch cards which were prepared from these schedules were included in the tabulations which provided the base numbers for families shown in the published tables. The distributions by income levels for each group, however, are based only on those cases which reported complete income information.

⁴ Data for earlier years were based on a different sample with the same number of households which were, however, located in only 68 sample areas.

The estimating procedure used in this survey involved the inflation of weighted sample results to independent estimates of the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States by age, color, and sex for March 1956, April 1955, and April 1954, and by age, sex, and veteran status (for males) for earlier years. The independent estimates for surveys taken since April 1953, were based on statistics from the 1950 Census of Population; statistics of births, deaths, immigration, and emigration; and statistics on the strength of the Armed Forces. To these totals were added the population in the Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post. For the years prior to April 1953, the independent estimates of the population were based on the 1940 Census data brought forward to the survey month to take account of births, deaths, net immigration, and aging of the population.

Reliability of the estimates.--Since the estimates, except the independent estimates and complete census data mentioned above, are based on sample data, they are subject to sampling variability. The following illustrations, based on rough computations from the new survey, indicate the order of magnitude of the sampling errors for some typical statistics in March 1956.

Of the 9,920,000 families living in rural-nonfarm areas, an estimated 13.8 percent had incomes between \$5,000 and \$5,999 in 1955. The standard error of the estimate of 13.8 percent is roughly 0.7 percentage points. The chances

are about 68 out of 100 that the estimate from the sample differs from the results which would be obtained from a complete census by less than the standard error indicated above. The chances are about 95 out of 100 that the difference would be less than twice the specified sampling error and about 99 out of 100 that the difference would be less than $2\frac{1}{2}$ times the error indicated.

The reliability of an estimated median depends upon both the form of the distribution and the size of the total on which it is based. The median income for rural-farm families in households was estimated to be \$2,111 for the year 1955. The chances are about 68 out of 100 that the true median would fall within the range of \$2,027 to \$2,193.

In addition to sampling variation, the figures are subject to errors of response and nonreporting, but the possible effect of such errors is not included in the above measures of reliability. In most cases the schedule entries for income are based on memory rather than on records, and in the majority of instances on the memory or knowledge of some one person, usually the wife of the family head. The memory factor in data derived from field surveys of income probably produces underestimates, because the tendency is to forget minor or irregular sources of income. Other errors of reporting are due to misrepresentation or to misunderstanding as to the scope of the income concept.

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Table 1.--PLACE OF RESIDENCE--DISTRIBUTION OF FAMILIES AND UNRELATED INDIVIDUALS BY TOTAL MONEY INCOME, FOR THE UNITED STATES, URBAN (BY SIZE OF PLACE) AND RURAL: 1955

Total money income	Total	Urban								Rural nonfarm	Rural farm
		Total	Urbanized areas			Places not in urbanized areas					
			Total	1,000,000 and over	250,000 to 999,999	Under 250,000	Total	25,000 and over	Under 25,000		
FAMILIES											
Total											
Number.....thousands..	42,843	27,612	19,973	(1)	(1)	(1)	7,639	(1)	(1)	9,920	5,311
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under \$500.....	3.4	1.9	1.5	1.6	1.3	1.7	2.9	2.1	3.1	3.0	11.8
\$500 to \$999.....	4.3	2.6	2.1	1.8	2.1	2.8	3.7	2.9	4.0	4.4	13.0
\$1,000 to \$1,499.....	4.9	3.6	2.8	2.7	3.2	2.6	5.5	4.6	5.8	4.8	12.0
\$1,500 to \$1,999.....	4.9	3.8	3.4	2.9	4.4	3.6	4.5	2.9	5.0	4.6	11.2
\$2,000 to \$2,499.....	5.5	4.7	4.3	3.7	4.3	5.6	5.6	4.2	6.1	5.8	9.0
\$2,500 to \$2,999.....	5.5	5.2	4.5	4.2	4.7	5.0	6.7	6.7	6.7	5.3	7.9
\$3,000 to \$3,499.....	7.4	7.2	6.7	6.1	8.2	6.3	8.4	6.8	8.9	8.4	6.5
\$3,500 to \$3,999.....	7.2	7.2	6.7	6.0	7.1	8.0	8.3	7.0	8.8	7.8	5.9
\$4,000 to \$4,499.....	8.2	8.5	8.4	8.5	8.5	8.1	8.7	8.0	8.9	9.0	4.9
\$4,500 to \$4,999.....	7.3	7.8	7.8	7.5	8.2	8.2	7.8	7.4	7.9	7.9	3.8
\$5,000 to \$5,999.....	12.7	13.8	14.9	15.1	13.6	15.9	11.1	11.3	11.0	13.8	5.5
\$6,000 to \$6,999.....	9.5	10.7	11.0	11.4	10.8	10.4	9.8	12.2	9.0	9.9	2.6
\$7,000 to \$9,999.....	12.9	15.7	17.3	18.4	16.6	15.9	11.7	15.2	10.6	10.2	4.0
\$10,000 to \$14,999.....	4.8	5.9	6.6	7.8	5.6	4.8	4.3	7.5	3.2	3.6	1.6
\$15,000 to \$24,999.....	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.4	0.9	0.9	0.7	1.3	0.5	1.0	0.4
\$25,000 and over.....	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.4	0.3	0.4	...	0.6	0.5	0.1
Median income.....	\$4,421	\$4,840	\$5,121	\$5,331	\$4,878	\$4,884	\$4,253	\$4,824	\$4,090	\$4,328	\$2,111
Head Year-Round Full-Time Worker											
Percent of total.....	66.6	66.7	67.4	68.1	65.5	68.2	64.7	70.6	62.3	65.2	68.9
Median income.....	\$5,103	\$5,612	\$5,742	\$5,954	\$5,480	\$5,599	\$5,116	\$6,157	\$4,784	\$4,967	\$2,340
UNRELATED INDIVIDUALS											
Total											
Number.....thousands..	9,766	7,545	5,603	(1)	(1)	(1)	1,942	(1)	(1)	1,655	566
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under \$500.....	20.2	17.2	17.0	15.2	18.7	20.1	18.0	19.3	17.6	26.2	44.4
\$500 to \$999.....	21.9	20.7	19.6	20.1	17.2	21.3	24.1	21.3	24.9	27.4	21.9
\$1,000 to \$1,499.....	12.5	12.7	11.7	9.7	15.2	13.0	15.4	15.7	15.2	10.9	13.8
\$1,500 to \$1,999.....	8.4	9.4	9.8	10.1	8.5	10.9	8.1	9.8	7.6	3.6	9.5
\$2,000 to \$2,499.....	7.8	8.6	9.0	9.6	9.0	7.4	7.5	9.8	6.7	6.2	2.0
\$2,500 to \$2,999.....	5.8	6.1	5.7	6.2	5.7	4.0	7.3	6.9	7.4	5.9	1.4
\$3,000 to \$3,499.....	7.1	7.5	7.4	7.7	7.3	6.6	7.8	4.3	8.8	6.8	1.7
\$3,500 to \$3,999.....	4.1	4.5	4.8	5.0	5.1	4.0	3.5	3.3	3.6	3.6	0.9
\$4,000 to \$4,499.....	4.1	4.1	4.9	5.6	3.9	4.1	1.8	1.6	1.9	5.4	0.6
\$4,500 to \$4,999.....	2.1	2.5	2.8	2.8	2.4	3.4	1.4	2.6	1.0	0.6	0.6
\$5,000 to \$5,999.....	2.5	2.7	2.9	3.3	2.5	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.1	2.4	0.6
\$6,000 to \$6,999.....	1.8	2.1	2.4	2.5	2.5	1.6	1.3	1.0	1.4	0.8	...
\$7,000 to \$9,999.....	1.0	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.7	0.3	1.4	2.0	1.3	0.2	0.6
\$10,000 to \$14,999.....	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.8	0.2	...	0.3	...	...
\$15,000 to \$24,999.....	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2.0
\$25,000 and over.....	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	...	0.3	0.2	...	0.2	...	...
Median income.....	\$1,316	\$1,476	\$1,587	\$1,748	\$1,464	\$1,331	\$1,256	\$1,299	\$1,247	\$934	\$628
Head Year-Round Full-Time Worker											
Percent of total.....	38.8	41.5	43.6	47.9	40.0	34.1	35.6	(2)	35.3	(2)	(2)
Median income.....	\$2,856	\$2,940	\$3,004	\$3,063	(2)	(2)	\$2,793	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)

¹ Comparable figures not available.

² Percent and median not shown where there were fewer than 100 cases in the sample reporting on income.

Table 2.--COLOR AND REGION--DISTRIBUTION OF FAMILIES AND UNRELATED INDIVIDUALS BY TOTAL MONEY INCOME, FOR THE UNITED STATES, URBAN AND RURAL: 1955¹

Total money income	United States			Northeast	North Central	South			West
	Total	White	Nonwhite			Total	White	Nonwhite	
FAMILIES									
United States									
Total									
Number.....thousands..	42,843	38,940	3,903	11,049	13,050	12,775	10,611	2,164	5,969
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under \$500.....	3.4	3.0	7.6	1.9	2.6	5.8	4.9	10.4	2.7
\$500 to \$999.....	4.3	3.6	11.4	2.5	3.0	7.7	5.8	16.6	3.2
\$1,000 to \$1,499.....	4.9	4.2	11.8	3.5	4.7	6.7	5.1	14.4	4.3
\$1,500 to \$1,999.....	4.9	4.5	8.9	3.3	4.7	6.7	5.7	11.5	4.0
\$2,000 to \$2,499.....	5.5	5.1	9.5	4.2	4.8	7.5	6.7	11.3	4.9
\$2,500 to \$2,999.....	5.5	5.3	8.1	5.3	5.1	6.6	6.3	8.3	4.5
\$3,000 to \$3,499.....	7.4	7.1	10.2	7.7	7.2	8.0	8.0	8.3	5.9
\$3,500 to \$3,999.....	7.2	7.2	7.0	8.6	6.7	5.8	6.0	4.6	8.6
\$4,000 to \$4,499.....	8.2	8.4	6.4	9.4	7.1	8.6	9.5	4.2	7.6
\$4,500 to \$4,999.....	7.3	7.6	4.7	8.4	8.1	5.8	6.4	3.1	6.9
\$5,000 to \$5,999.....	12.7	13.4	5.8	14.2	13.9	9.7	10.9	3.9	14.2
\$6,000 to \$6,999.....	9.5	9.9	4.8	10.7	10.0	7.4	8.6	1.9	10.6
\$7,000 to \$9,999.....	12.9	13.9	3.1	14.0	14.9	9.0	10.6	1.5	15.3
\$10,000 to \$14,999.....	4.8	5.3	0.6	5.4	5.5	3.4	4.1	...	5.3
\$15,000 to \$24,999.....	0.9	1.0	...	0.6	1.1	0.9	1.0	...	1.3
\$25,000 and over.....	0.5	0.5	...	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5	...	0.7
Median income.....	\$4,421	\$4,605	\$2,549	\$4,714	\$4,753	\$3,586	\$4,079	\$1,874	\$4,812
Head year-round full-time worker									
Percent of total.....	66.6	67.5	57.5	66.8	70.4	64.3	65.9	56.8	62.5
Median income.....	\$5,103	\$5,280	\$3,226	\$5,335	\$5,392	\$4,262	\$4,570	\$2,534	\$5,647
Urban									
Number.....thousands..	27,612	24,786	2,826	8,691	8,306	6,375	5,149	1,226	4,240
Median income.....	\$4,840	\$5,069	\$3,118	\$4,812	\$5,295	\$4,176	\$4,563	\$2,448	\$5,112
Rural Nonfarm									
Number.....thousands..	9,920	9,378	542	1,981	2,721	3,872	3,450	422	1,346
Median income.....	\$4,328	\$4,451	\$2,029	\$4,578	\$4,571	\$4,108	\$4,325	\$1,980	\$4,396
Rural Farm									
Number.....thousands..	5,311	4,776	535	377	2,023	2,528	2,012	516	383
Median income.....	\$2,111	\$2,339	\$972	(1)	\$2,471	\$1,667	\$1,967	\$948	\$3,462
UNRELATED INDIVIDUALS									
United States									
Total									
Number.....thousands..	9,766	8,352	1,414	2,591	2,831	2,449	1,728	721	1,895
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under \$500.....	20.2	18.7	28.5	20.6	19.0	27.8	23.7	37.6	11.7
\$500 to \$999.....	21.9	21.4	24.7	20.6	26.1	24.8	22.9	29.2	14.1
\$1,000 to \$1,499.....	12.5	12.3	13.3	11.4	11.3	10.4	9.0	13.7	18.2
\$1,500 to \$1,999.....	8.4	8.2	9.5	8.3	8.1	6.9	6.8	7.1	10.9
\$2,000 to \$2,499.....	7.8	7.7	9.1	8.8	6.6	9.2	10.7	5.6	6.8
\$2,500 to \$2,999.....	5.8	5.8	6.0	7.2	4.0	5.2	6.0	3.2	7.4
\$3,000 to \$3,499.....	7.1	7.6	4.2	8.6	6.8	4.8	6.0	1.7	8.1
\$3,500 to \$3,999.....	4.1	4.7	0.8	4.1	4.8	2.8	3.8	0.4	5.1
\$4,000 to \$4,499.....	4.1	4.5	1.9	3.1	5.0	1.5	2.1	...	7.4
\$4,500 to \$4,999.....	2.1	2.3	0.6	2.1	2.1	1.1	1.4	0.6	3.0
\$5,000 to \$5,999.....	2.5	2.8	1.0	2.7	2.4	2.7	3.4	0.9	2.3
\$6,000 to \$6,999.....	1.8	2.0	...	1.2	1.8	1.7	2.3	...	2.5
\$7,000 to \$9,999.....	1.0	1.1	0.2	0.4	1.5	0.8	1.1	...	1.3
\$10,000 to \$14,999.....	0.4	0.4	...	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.3	...	1.0
\$15,000 to \$24,999.....	0.2	0.2	...	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.5	...	0.2
\$25,000 and over.....	0.2	0.2	...	0.7	...	...	...	...	...
Median income.....	\$1,316	\$1,402	\$935	\$1,386	\$1,217	\$948	\$1,189	\$712	\$1,775
Head year-round full-time worker									
Percent of total.....	38.8	38.6	39.4	42.4	38.7	33.8	33.1	35.5	39.3
Median income.....	\$2,856	\$3,064	(1)	\$3,003	\$2,822	\$2,257	(1)	(1)	\$3,504
Urban									
Number.....thousands..	7,545	6,437	1,108	2,250	2,152	1,709	1,235	474	1,434
Median income.....	\$1,476	\$1,571	\$1,066	\$1,496	\$1,400	\$1,300	\$1,692	\$823	\$1,715
Rural Nonfarm									
Number.....thousands..	1,655	1,452	203	282	481	523	351	172	369
Median income.....	\$934	\$981	(1)	(1)	\$858	\$734	(1)	(1)	\$2,514
Rural Farm									
Number.....thousands..	566	463	103	59	198	217	142	75	92
Median income.....	\$628	\$685	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)

¹ Median not shown where there were fewer than 100 cases in the sample reporting on income.

Table 3.--TYPE OF FAMILY--DISTRIBUTION OF FAMILIES AND UNRELATED INDIVIDUALS BY TOTAL MONEY INCOME, FOR THE UNITED STATES, URBAN AND RURAL: 1955

Total money income	Families						Unrelated individuals			
	Total	Male head					Female head	Total	Male	Female
		Total	Married, wife present			Other marital status				
			Total	Wife in paid labor force	Wife not in paid labor force					
UNITED STATES										
Total										
Number.....thousands..	42,843	38,604	37,200	9,786	27,414	1,404	4,239	9,766	4,071	5,695
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under \$500.....	3.4	2.6	2.5	1.0	3.0	4.6	11.1	20.2	14.9	23.9
\$500 to \$999.....	4.3	3.7	3.6	1.4	4.3	6.9	10.2	21.9	17.9	24.7
\$1,000 to \$1,499.....	4.9	4.2	4.2	2.3	4.9	4.9	11.4	12.5	11.7	13.0
\$1,500 to \$1,999.....	4.9	4.4	4.4	2.8	4.9	5.8	9.3	8.4	8.3	8.5
\$2,000 to \$2,499.....	5.5	5.2	5.1	3.8	5.6	6.9	8.5	7.8	9.0	7.1
\$2,500 to \$2,999.....	5.5	5.4	5.4	4.4	5.7	5.7	7.0	5.8	7.3	4.8
\$3,000 to \$3,499.....	7.4	7.4	7.4	5.7	8.0	6.4	7.7	7.1	6.8	7.2
\$3,500 to \$3,999.....	7.2	7.2	7.3	6.2	7.6	6.4	6.3	4.1	5.5	3.2
\$4,000 to \$4,499.....	8.2	8.5	8.6	7.0	9.2	6.3	5.0	4.1	5.4	3.2
\$4,500 to \$4,999.....	7.3	7.6	7.6	7.0	7.9	7.6	4.4	2.1	4.0	0.7
\$5,000 to \$5,999.....	12.7	13.4	13.6	13.5	13.6	9.3	6.5	2.5	4.2	1.3
\$6,000 to \$6,999.....	9.5	10.2	10.2	14.2	8.7	10.4	3.2	1.8	2.7	1.1
\$7,000 to \$9,999.....	12.9	13.6	13.6	23.2	10.3	12.2	6.9	1.0	1.4	0.6
\$10,000 to \$14,999.....	4.8	5.1	5.1	6.5	4.7	5.0	2.1	0.4	0.6	0.2
\$15,000 to \$24,999.....	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.8	1.0	1.0	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.3
\$25,000 and over.....	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.6	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
Median income.....	\$4,421	\$4,592	\$4,599	\$5,622	\$4,326	\$4,190	\$2,471	\$1,316	\$1,831	\$1,054
Head Year-Round Full-Time Worker										
Percent of total.....	66.6	70.9	71.6	71.1	71.7	54.6	27.5	38.8	44.2	35.1
Median income.....	\$5,103	\$5,165	\$5,170	\$6,212	\$4,831	\$5,138	\$3,727	\$2,856	\$3,164	\$2,705
URBAN										
Number.....thousands..	27,612	24,434	23,482	6,941	16,541	952	3,178	7,545	3,002	4,543
Median income.....	\$4,840	\$5,062	\$5,068	\$6,000	\$4,756	\$4,964	\$2,775	\$1,476	\$2,074	\$1,215
RURAL NONFARM										
Number.....thousands..	9,920	9,164	8,914	2,087	6,827	250	756	1,655	699	956
Median income.....	\$4,328	\$4,490	\$4,506	\$5,234	\$4,333	(1)	\$1,872	\$934	\$1,446	\$757
RURAL FARM										
Number.....thousands..	5,311	5,006	4,804	758	4,046	202	305	566	370	196
Median income.....	\$2,111	\$2,168	\$2,190	\$3,371	\$1,979	(1)	(1)	\$628	(1)	(1)

¹ Median not shown where there were fewer than 100 cases in the sample reporting on income.

Table 4.--AGE OF HEAD--DISTRIBUTION OF FAMILIES AND UNRELATED INDIVIDUALS BY TOTAL MONEY INCOME, FOR THE UNITED STATES, URBAN AND RURAL: 1955

Total money income	Families							Unrelated individuals						
	Total	Age of head (years)						Total	Age (years)					
		14 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 and over		14 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 and over
UNITED STATES														
Total														
Number.....thousands..	42,843	2,128	9,152	10,352	8,818	6,742	5,651	9,766	739	1,086	1,058	1,671	2,024	3,188
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under \$500.....	3.4	5.0	2.5	2.0	3.2	3.8	7.1	20.2	30.7	8.2	18.0	13.0	21.3	24.9
\$500 to \$999.....	4.3	3.3	2.4	2.4	3.4	5.5	11.8	21.9	10.6	13.7	13.4	15.5	15.0	36.7
\$1,000 to \$1,499.....	4.9	7.2	2.7	3.2	3.4	5.2	13.3	12.5	13.2	8.8	5.8	7.4	13.2	17.2
\$1,500 to \$1,999.....	4.9	6.1	4.0	2.6	3.7	5.2	11.8	8.4	9.3	6.4	8.3	7.4	10.6	8.0
\$2,000 to \$2,499.....	5.5	9.4	4.9	3.8	4.7	5.7	9.2	7.8	7.9	13.9	7.5	11.3	8.1	4.3
\$2,500 to \$2,999.....	5.5	11.1	5.7	4.7	4.5	5.5	6.4	5.8	6.9	10.6	10.6	7.3	5.9	2.0
\$3,000 to \$3,499.....	7.4	12.4	8.4	8.1	5.8	7.0	5.3	7.1	12.2	11.6	12.3	9.7	7.1	1.9
\$3,500 to \$3,999.....	7.2	9.1	8.8	7.4	5.3	7.3	5.9	4.1	4.1	9.3	6.3	5.8	4.8	0.8
\$4,000 to \$4,999.....	8.2	10.2	10.7	8.8	7.7	6.4	4.7	4.1	2.6	4.6	5.5	10.9	3.9	0.8
\$4,500 to \$4,999.....	7.3	7.2	9.4	8.4	7.3	5.7	3.4	2.1	0.4	3.8	3.1	1.9	3.8	0.6
\$5,000 to \$5,999.....	12.7	9.1	16.2	15.7	11.4	11.1	6.3	2.5	2.0	4.2	4.0	5.4	2.0	0.7
\$6,000 to \$6,999.....	9.5	4.6	11.1	11.5	10.6	8.3	4.0	1.8	...	3.6	1.7	2.8	2.4	0.7
\$7,000 to \$9,999.....	12.9	4.8	10.8	15.4	17.3	13.9	7.0	1.0	...	1.3	2.3	0.8	1.3	0.5
\$10,000 to \$14,999.....	4.8	0.2	1.8	4.8	9.2	6.9	2.5	0.4	...	...	1.2	0.5	0.1	0.3
\$15,000 to \$24,999.....	0.9	...	0.5	0.8	1.4	1.6	0.7	0.2	...	...	...	0.3	0.2	0.4
\$25,000 and over.....	0.5	...	...	0.4	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.2	...	...	...	...	0.4	0.3
Median income.....	\$4,421	\$3,319	\$4,495	\$4,917	\$5,088	\$4,375	\$2,326	\$1,316	\$1,330	\$2,464	\$2,300	\$2,296	\$1,524	\$842
Head Year-Round Full-Time Worker														
Percent of total.....	66.6	61.5	79.1	77.8	74.1	62.5	23.7	38.8	36.8	63.4	65.7	55.7	47.6	10.9
Median income.....	\$5,103	\$4,175	\$4,938	\$5,324	\$5,669	\$4,903	\$3,701	\$2,856	(1)	(1)	(1)	\$3,170	\$2,702	(1)

¹ Median not shown where there were fewer than 100 cases in the sample reporting on income.

Table 4.--AGE OF HEAD--DISTRIBUTION OF FAMILIES AND UNRELATED INDIVIDUALS BY TOTAL MONEY INCOME, FOR THE UNITED STATES, URBAN AND RURAL: 1955--Con.

Total money income	Families							Unrelated individuals							
	Total	Age of head (years)						Total	Age (years)						
		14 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 and over		14 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 and over	
URBAN															
Number.....thousands..	27,612	1,482	5,912	6,550	5,787	4,429	3,452	7,545	600	924	876	1,311	1,567	2,267	
Median income.....	\$4,840	\$3,505	\$4,672	\$5,295	\$5,717	\$5,061	\$3,020	\$1,476	\$1,433	\$2,437	\$2,414	\$2,231	\$1,759	\$915	
RURAL NONFARM															
Number.....thousands..	9,920	494	2,500	2,616	1,865	1,257	1,188	1,655	90	138	153	270	326	678	
Median income.....	\$4,328	\$3,232	\$4,505	\$4,780	\$4,745	\$3,993	\$1,961	\$934	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	\$712	
RURAL FARM															
Number.....thousands..	5,311	152	740	1,186	1,166	1,056	1,011	566	49	24	29	90	131	243	
Median income.....	\$2,111	(1)	\$2,208	\$2,748	\$2,428	\$2,072	\$1,461	\$628	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	

¹ Median not shown where there were fewer than 100 cases in the sample reporting on income.

Table 5.--SIZE OF FAMILY--DISTRIBUTION OF FAMILIES AND UNRELATED INDIVIDUALS BY TOTAL MONEY INCOME, FOR THE UNITED STATES, URBAN AND RURAL: 1955

Total money income	Total	Unrelated individuals	Families having specified number of related persons							Median size of family
			Total	2	3	4	5	6	7 or more	
UNITED STATES										
Total										
Number.....thousands..	52,609	9,766	42,843	13,921	9,770	8,955	5,251	2,520	2,426	3.27
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	...
Under \$500.....	6.5	20.2	3.4	5.3	2.9	2.0	2.5	2.5	3.4	2.56
\$500 to \$999.....	7.5	21.9	4.3	7.3	3.1	2.1	3.0	3.2	5.4	2.44
\$1,000 to \$1,499.....	6.3	12.5	4.9	7.8	4.4	3.1	2.5	3.3	5.4	2.50
\$1,500 to \$1,999.....	5.5	8.4	4.9	7.0	4.4	2.8	3.7	3.6	6.6	2.71
\$2,000 to \$2,499.....	5.9	7.8	5.5	7.7	5.1	3.5	4.1	5.0	6.0	2.77
\$2,500 to \$2,999.....	5.6	5.8	5.5	6.1	5.4	4.4	6.5	4.7	6.0	3.17
\$3,000 to \$3,499.....	7.3	7.1	7.4	7.4	6.8	8.1	6.7	6.8	9.0	3.37
\$3,500 to \$3,999.....	6.6	4.1	7.2	6.9	7.3	7.5	6.9	6.9	7.2	3.34
\$4,000 to \$4,499.....	7.4	4.1	8.2	6.3	8.7	9.3	8.2	12.2	8.4	3.56
\$4,500 to \$4,999.....	6.4	2.1	7.3	5.2	8.0	8.6	8.5	9.6	7.0	3.61
\$5,000 to \$5,999.....	10.9	2.5	12.7	10.0	12.8	16.4	14.3	13.1	10.3	3.59
\$6,000 to \$6,999.....	8.1	1.8	9.5	8.1	10.0	10.5	10.5	9.6	8.3	3.45
\$7,000 to \$9,999.....	10.7	1.0	12.9	10.6	14.2	14.9	14.1	12.2	11.3	3.46
\$10,000 to \$14,999.....	4.0	0.4	4.8	3.0	5.7	5.5	6.0	6.2	4.8	3.64
\$15,000 to \$24,999.....	0.8	0.2	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.7	0.6	0.6	3.59
\$25,000 and over.....	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.4	3.14
Median income.....	\$3,909	\$1,316	\$4,421	\$3,601	\$4,619	\$4,919	\$4,847	\$4,594	\$4,060	...
Head Year-Round Full-Time Worker										
Percent of total.....	61.8	38.8	66.6	54.2	68.4	76.6	76.0	72.3	67.0	...
Median income.....	\$4,821	\$2,856	\$5,103	\$4,908	\$5,221	\$5,308	\$5,258	\$4,776	\$4,342	...
URBAN										
Number.....thousands..	35,157	7,545	27,612	9,543	6,448	5,813	3,171	1,414	1,223	3.16
Median income.....	\$4,197	\$1,476	\$4,840	\$4,035	\$4,994	\$5,257	\$5,369	\$5,112	\$4,956	...
RURAL NONFARM										
Number.....thousands..	11,575	1,655	9,920	2,768	2,309	2,182	1,344	669	648	3.45
Median income.....	\$3,965	\$934	\$4,328	\$3,325	\$4,500	\$4,829	\$4,646	\$4,551	\$3,754	...
RURAL FARM										
Number.....thousands..	5,877	566	5,311	1,610	1,013	960	736	437	555	3.53
Median income.....	\$1,937	\$628	\$2,111	\$1,712	\$2,148	\$2,423	\$2,592	\$2,612	\$2,157	...

Table 6.--NUMBER OF RELATED CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS OLD--DISTRIBUTION OF FAMILIES BY TOTAL MONEY INCOME, FOR THE UNITED STATES, URBAN AND RURAL: 1955

Total money income	Total families	Families having specified number of children under 18 years old							Total children in families ¹
		None	1	2	3	4	5	6 or more	
UNITED STATES									
Total									
Number.....thousands..	42,843	17,627	8,648	8,347	4,411	2,055	916	839	56,157
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under \$500.....	3.4	3.8	3.4	2.5	3.4	2.8	5.6	4.6	3.4
\$500 to \$999.....	4.3	5.8	3.7	2.4	3.1	3.3	7.3	6.7	3.8
\$1,000 to \$1,499.....	4.9	6.4	4.6	3.2	3.3	4.5	3.6	8.6	4.3
\$1,500 to \$1,999.....	4.9	6.0	4.1	3.5	3.8	5.0	5.9	8.8	4.7
\$2,000 to \$2,499.....	5.5	6.7	5.2	3.7	4.3	5.9	6.1	7.0	4.9
\$2,500 to \$2,999.....	5.5	5.7	5.2	4.6	7.3	5.5	6.7	6.4	5.8
\$3,000 to \$3,499.....	7.4	6.6	7.2	8.5	7.1	7.3	12.9	9.1	8.2
\$3,500 to \$3,999.....	7.2	6.3	8.0	7.5	7.9	7.0	7.8	7.7	7.7
\$4,000 to \$4,499.....	8.2	6.2	8.9	9.7	9.4	12.1	7.3	9.1	9.6
\$4,500 to \$4,999.....	7.3	5.7	7.7	8.7	8.8	10.5	5.9	7.0	8.4
\$5,000 to \$5,999.....	12.7	10.0	13.4	17.1	14.0	12.7	12.0	8.3	13.8
\$6,000 to \$6,999.....	9.5	8.9	10.3	10.3	9.2	9.3	7.5	7.5	9.4
\$7,000 to \$9,999.....	12.9	14.4	12.3	12.6	13.2	10.0	7.3	6.1	11.2
\$10,000 to \$14,999.....	4.8	5.6	4.9	4.7	3.7	3.1	2.8	2.2	3.9
\$15,000 to \$24,999.....	0.9	1.1	0.7	0.9	1.1	0.6	0.8	...	0.8
\$25,000 and over.....	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.4
Median income.....	\$4,421	\$4,218	\$4,483	\$4,753	\$4,523	\$4,360	\$3,622	\$3,434	\$4,375
Head Year-Round Full-Time Worker									
Percent of total.....	66.6	56.3	72.0	75.8	77.0	73.3	63.0	71.3	73.5
Median income.....	\$5,103	\$5,442	\$5,095	\$5,162	\$4,965	\$4,607	\$4,203	\$3,865	\$4,813
URBAN									
Number.....thousands..	27,612	12,047	5,577	5,400	2,660	1,141	408	379	33,255
Median income.....	\$4,840	\$4,786	\$4,802	\$5,061	\$4,920	\$4,660	\$4,494	\$4,284	\$4,824
RURAL NONFARM									
Number.....thousands..	9,920	3,430	2,166	2,073	1,169	558	279	245	14,812
Median income.....	\$4,328	\$3,780	\$4,507	\$4,703	\$4,437	\$4,461	(²)	(²)	\$4,338
RURAL FARM									
Number.....thousands..	5,311	2,150	905	874	582	356	229	215	8,090
Median income.....	\$2,111	\$1,906	\$2,253	\$2,354	\$2,557	\$2,346	(²)	(²)	\$2,204

¹ Distributed by income levels of their families.

² Median not shown where there were fewer than 100 cases in the sample reporting on income.

Table 7.--NUMBER OF EARNERS--DISTRIBUTION OF FAMILIES AND UNRELATED INDIVIDUALS BY TOTAL MONEY INCOME, FOR THE UNITED STATES, URBAN AND RURAL: 1955

Total money income	Families					Unrelated individuals		
	Total	Families having specified number of earners				Total	Earners	Non-earners
		None	1	2	3 or more			
UNITED STATES								
Total								
Number.....thousands..	42,843	2,604	21,791	14,390	4,058	9,766	6,206	3,560
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under \$500.....	3.4	18.3	3.2	1.6	1.8	20.2	9.7	38.9
\$500 to \$999.....	4.3	19.1	4.3	2.3	1.9	21.9	14.6	35.0
\$1,000 to \$1,499.....	4.9	21.4	4.5	3.2	2.5	12.5	11.6	14.0
\$1,500 to \$1,999.....	4.9	16.7	5.2	2.9	2.6	8.4	10.3	5.1
\$2,000 to \$2,499.....	5.5	8.3	6.4	4.4	2.9	7.8	10.9	2.3
\$2,500 to \$2,999.....	5.5	4.4	6.6	4.8	3.2	5.8	8.5	0.9
\$3,000 to \$3,499.....	7.4	3.5	9.4	6.0	4.0	7.1	10.5	0.9
\$3,500 to \$3,999.....	7.2	2.2	9.0	6.3	3.3	4.1	6.2	0.4
\$4,000 to \$4,499.....	8.2	0.9	10.1	7.4	5.6	4.1	6.1	0.5
\$4,500 to \$4,999.....	7.3	0.7	8.2	7.6	5.5	2.1	3.1	0.1
\$5,000 to \$5,999.....	12.7	1.1	13.7	14.0	10.6	2.5	3.6	0.6
\$6,000 to \$6,999.....	9.5	0.8	7.3	13.6	12.3	1.8	2.6	0.3
\$7,000 to \$9,999.....	12.9	1.5	7.6	19.4	26.1	1.0	1.4	0.2
\$10,000 to \$14,999.....	4.8	0.4	2.9	5.4	16.0	0.4	0.4	0.2
\$15,000 to \$24,999.....	0.9	0.6	1.0	0.7	1.7	0.2	0.2	0.2
\$25,000 and over.....	0.5	0.1	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3
Median income.....	\$4,421	\$1,294	\$4,069	\$5,250	\$6,496	\$1,316	\$2,174	\$659
Head Year-Round Full-Time Worker								
Percent of total.....	66.6	2.2	70.2	71.5	71.2	38.8	56.5	4.8
Median income.....	\$5,103	(1)	\$4,486	\$5,745	\$6,896	\$2,856	\$2,979	(1)
URBAN								
Number.....thousands..	27,612	1,739	13,467	9,838	2,568	7,545	4,853	2,692
Median income.....	\$4,840	\$1,445	\$4,362	\$5,701	\$7,495	\$1,476	\$2,303	\$694
RURAL NONFARM								
Number.....thousands..	9,920	573	5,491	3,010	846	1,655	981	674
Median income.....	\$4,328	\$1,076	\$4,154	\$4,993	\$5,639	\$934	\$1,940	\$614
RURAL FARM								
Number.....thousands..	5,311	292	2,833	1,542	644	566	372	194
Median income.....	\$2,111	(1)	\$1,920	\$2,663	\$2,849	\$628	\$881	(1)

¹ Median not shown where there were fewer than 100 cases in the sample reporting on income.

Table 8.--OCCUPATION OF HEAD--DISTRIBUTION OF FAMILIES BY TOTAL MONEY INCOME, BY MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUP OF HEAD IN MARCH 1956, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1955

Total money income	Total	Heads employed as civilians in March 1956																Heads unem- ployed in March 1956	In Armed Forces or not in labor force in March 1956 ¹
		Total em- ployed civilians	Professional, technical, and kindred workers			Farmers and farm mana- gers	Managers, officials, and proprietors, exc. farm			Clerical and kindred workers	Sales workers	Crafts- men, foremen, and kindred workers	Opera- tives and kindred workers	Private house- hold workers	Service workers, except private house- hold	Farm la- borers and foremen	Laborers, except farm and mine		
			Total	Self- em- ployed	Sala- ried		Total	Self- em- ployed	Sala- ried										
TOTAL																			
Number.....thousands..	42,843	35,132	3,329	598	2,731	3,013	4,950	2,772	2,178	2,467	1,994	6,889	7,365	267	2,066	531	2,261	1,075	6,636
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under \$500.....	3.4	2.3	0.4	0.6	0.3	15.0	1.7	3.0	...	1.0	0.9	0.2	1.0	(2)	0.6	9.1	2.0	4.9	8.9
\$500 to \$999.....	4.3	2.7	0.3	0.9	0.2	14.6	1.2	1.8	0.5	0.8	0.5	0.7	0.9	(2)	1.7	14.0	5.0	6.9	12.3
\$1,000 to \$1,499.....	4.9	3.3	0.8	1.5	0.7	12.2	1.9	2.6	1.1	1.8	1.8	0.8	2.2	(2)	4.3	15.3	6.2	8.6	12.8
\$1,500 to \$1,999.....	4.9	3.5	1.0	3.8	0.5	10.7	2.3	3.9	0.3	1.1	2.2	1.7	3.3	(2)	5.0	10.6	6.2	7.8	11.5
\$2,000 to \$2,499.....	5.5	4.6	1.0	0.9	1.0	9.9	3.2	5.1	0.9	2.5	2.3	2.1	4.8	(2)	8.6	19.2	9.2	12.1	9.0
\$2,500 to \$2,999.....	5.5	5.2	2.4	3.5	2.2	8.7	4.3	5.6	2.6	4.6	2.8	2.9	6.0	(2)	7.0	7.8	10.5	11.3	6.5
\$3,000 to \$3,499.....	7.4	7.5	3.8	2.0	4.2	6.0	4.2	5.5	2.5	9.0	5.5	7.1	9.8	(2)	9.2	5.2	13.7	8.8	6.7
\$3,500 to \$3,999.....	7.2	7.4	4.6	1.5	5.2	4.8	4.9	6.1	3.3	10.6	6.1	6.2	9.6	(2)	11.7	5.4	10.9	8.7	5.6
\$4,000 to \$4,499.....	8.2	8.6	6.5	3.5	7.0	3.8	5.4	6.3	4.2	10.3	7.3	11.3	11.1	(2)	9.9	2.1	7.7	11.0	5.6
\$4,500 to \$4,999.....	7.3	8.1	5.5	2.9	6.0	3.4	5.9	5.3	6.6	11.1	8.9	10.3	10.8	(2)	8.8	3.6	5.0	3.0	3.9
\$5,000 to \$5,999.....	12.7	14.4	16.5	8.4	18.0	3.7	14.3	11.2	18.0	15.3	13.4	20.5	16.0	(2)	12.8	3.1	7.8	4.9	5.4
\$6,000 to \$6,999.....	9.5	10.9	16.1	9.3	17.3	2.0	11.1	9.8	12.7	12.8	15.0	14.0	10.3	(2)	8.8	2.6	7.8	2.6	3.0
\$7,000 to \$9,999.....	12.9	14.4	24.6	17.7	25.9	2.9	21.6	14.8	29.9	14.5	19.3	17.2	11.8	(2)	8.8	1.0	6.8	7.9	6.1
\$10,000 to \$14,999.....	4.8	5.5	12.3	25.3	10.0	1.3	12.6	12.8	12.4	4.2	10.6	4.7	2.2	(2)	2.7	0.5	1.2	1.3	2.1
\$15,000 to \$24,999.....	0.9	1.0	3.0	12.8	1.2	0.7	3.2	2.9	3.5	0.4	2.5	0.3	0.2	(2)	...	0.5	...	...	0.5
\$25,000 and over.....	0.5	0.5	1.2	5.5	0.4	0.3	2.5	3.3	1.5	...	0.8	...	...	(2)	0.1	...	...	0.3	0.2
Median income.....	\$4,421	\$4,802	\$6,447	\$8,898	\$6,272	\$1,883	\$6,063	\$5,429	\$6,787	\$4,874	\$5,873	\$5,327	\$4,560	(2)	\$4,096	\$2,026	\$3,398	\$2,929	\$2,250
HEAD YEAR-ROUND FULL-TIME WORKER																			
Percent of total.....	66.6	79.2	84.5	68.6	87.5	84.7	87.6	83.7	92.7	85.3	81.6	77.6	74.5	(2)	77.4	(2)	66.4	20.6	(3)
Median income.....	\$5,103	\$5,109	\$6,772	(2)	\$6,568	\$1,902	\$6,395	\$5,821	\$6,886	\$5,154	\$6,145	\$5,616	\$4,803	(2)	\$4,423	(2)	\$3,646	(2)	(3)

¹ Includes about 800,000 families headed by members of the Armed Forces living off post or with their families on military reservations.

² Percent and median not shown where there were fewer than 100 cases in the sample reporting on income.

³ Comparable figures not available.

Table 9.--INDUSTRY OF HEAD--DISTRIBUTION OF FAMILIES BY TOTAL MONEY INCOME, BY MAJOR INDUSTRY GROUP OF HEAD IN MARCH 1956, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1955

Total money income	Total	Heads employed as civilians in March 1956														Heads unem- ployed in March 1956	In Armed Forces or not in labor force in March 1956 ¹
		Total employed civilians	Agricul- ture, forestry, and fish- eries	Mining	Con- struc- tion	Manufac- turing	Trans- portation, communi- cation, and other public utilities	Whole- sale trade	Retail trade	Finance, insur- ance, and real estate	Business and repair services	Personal serv- ices	Enter- tainment and recre- ation services	Profes- sional and related services	Public adminis- tration		
TOTAL																	
Number.....thousands..	42,843	35,132	3,751	623	2,855	10,648	3,381	1,693	4,527	1,154	1,069	1,165	184	2,338	1,744	1,075	6,636
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under \$500.....	3.4	2.3	13.3	0.4	0.8	0.7	0.2	0.9	2.5	0.7	1.0	3.5	(2)	0.6	0.5	4.9	8.9
\$500 to \$999.....	4.3	2.7	14.2	2.2	2.5	0.7	0.2	0.7	1.3	0.4	1.8	8.1	(2)	2.2	...	6.9	12.3
\$1,000 to \$1,499.....	4.9	3.3	12.6	2.2	2.7	1.8	1.2	1.6	2.1	1.8	1.4	11.7	(2)	2.8	0.6	8.6	12.8
\$1,500 to \$1,999.....	4.9	3.5	10.3	5.4	3.7	1.9	2.1	0.4	4.4	1.6	5.4	8.3	(2)	1.9	0.9	7.8	11.5
\$2,000 to \$2,499.....	5.5	4.6	11.2	2.2	3.7	3.1	3.4	3.1	5.6	3.1	6.9	8.1	(2)	4.0	2.1	12.1	9.0
\$2,500 to \$2,999.....	5.5	5.2	8.5	2.7	4.7	4.1	4.2	5.5	6.2	5.0	8.3	7.7	(2)	5.0	2.5	11.3	6.5
\$3,000 to \$3,499.....	7.4	7.5	6.0	8.5	11.7	6.9	8.2	6.9	7.9	7.6	12.3	7.1	(2)	6.5	4.2	8.8	6.7
\$3,500 to \$3,999.....	7.2	7.4	5.2	7.8	7.7	7.3	7.9	9.2	7.0	6.9	8.6	8.2	(2)	6.7	10.2	8.7	5.6
\$4,000 to \$4,499.....	8.2	8.6	3.6	9.8	10.1	9.9	10.1	8.9	8.2	5.6	6.1	8.3	(2)	8.2	10.7	11.0	5.6
\$4,500 to \$4,999.....	7.3	8.1	3.7	14.1	7.5	8.9	10.2	6.8	9.4	6.4	6.9	4.2	(2)	7.7	10.6	3.0	3.9
\$5,000 to \$5,999.....	12.7	14.4	3.6	19.7	14.2	17.6	17.1	15.2	13.7	9.0	11.6	9.4	(2)	13.8	19.7	4.9	5.4
\$6,000 to \$6,999.....	9.5	10.9	2.5	12.5	10.7	12.5	13.8	15.2	10.8	11.3	10.7	4.8	(2)	10.1	14.7	2.6	3.0
\$7,000 to \$9,999.....	12.9	14.4	3.0	8.5	13.0	17.3	17.0	15.0	13.9	23.6	11.6	7.2	(2)	18.2	16.3	7.9	6.1
\$10,000 to \$14,999.....	4.8	5.5	1.4	3.1	4.9	6.1	3.7	8.4	5.8	11.4	5.4	2.9	(2)	7.4	6.7	1.3	2.1
\$15,000 to \$24,999.....	0.9	1.0	0.7	...	1.6	0.8	0.5	1.1	0.9	2.5	1.0	0.4	(2)	3.6	0.2	...	0.5
\$25,000 and over.....	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.1	1.1	0.3	3.0	1.1	0.3	(2)	1.3	...	0.3	0.2
Median income.....	\$4,421	\$4,802	\$1,981	\$4,812	\$4,660	\$5,267	\$5,135	\$5,395	\$4,755	\$6,168	\$4,352	\$3,183	(2)	\$5,319	\$5,391	\$2,929	\$2,250
HEAD YEAR-ROUND FULL-TIME WORKER																	
Percent of total.....	66.6	79.2	80.8	65.5	60.9	80.4	82.1	87.2	81.1	84.0	80.1	66.1	(2)	75.4	93.3	20.6	(3)
Median income.....	\$5,103	\$5,109	\$2,030	(2)	\$5,279	\$5,596	\$5,316	\$5,667	\$5,102	\$6,748	\$4,908	\$3,506	(2)	\$5,462	\$5,583	(2)	(3)

¹ Includes about 800,000 families headed by members of the Armed Forces living off post or with their families on military reservations.² Percent and median not shown where there were fewer than 100 cases in the sample reporting on income.³ Comparable figures not available.

Table 10.--SOURCE OF INCOME--DISTRIBUTION OF FAMILIES BY TOTAL MONEY INCOME, FOR THE UNITED STATES, URBAN AND RURAL: 1955

Total money income	Total ¹	Earnings only								Earnings and income other than earnings						Other income; no earnings
		Total	Wages or salary only	Self-employment income only			Wages or salary and self-employment income			Total	Wages or salary and other income	Self-employment income and other income			Wages or salary, self-employment income, and other income	
				Total ²	Nonfarm self-employment income only	Farm self-employment income only	Total ³	Wages or salary and nonfarm self-employment income only	Wages or salary and farm self-employment income only			Total ⁴	Nonfarm self-employment income and other income	Farm self-employment income and other income		
UNITED STATES																
All families.....	100.0	66.0	51.9	5.9	3.3	2.5	8.2	4.0	3.9	27.9	20.7	3.4	1.9	1.3	3.8	5.3
Under \$500.....	100.0	53.3	14.3	23.7	4.7	18.2	15.3	2.7	11.9	14.2	4.6	5.8	1.8	3.8	3.9	9.6
\$500 to \$999.....	100.0	45.7	22.5	9.4	2.1	7.1	13.7	2.0	11.6	27.5	15.0	7.8	1.9	5.5	4.6	26.9
\$1,000 to \$1,499.....	100.0	45.2	26.7	7.8	2.4	5.2	10.8	0.8	9.8	28.4	16.9	6.7	2.1	4.4	4.8	26.4
\$1,500 to \$1,999.....	100.0	50.7	30.9	9.0	3.1	5.2	10.7	2.1	7.9	28.5	17.5	7.9	3.9	3.8	3.1	20.8
\$2,000 to \$2,499.....	100.0	60.6	42.6	8.2	3.1	4.7	9.8	3.5	5.9	30.2	21.0	5.1	2.5	2.4	4.1	9.2
\$2,500 to \$2,999.....	100.0	66.9	50.2	7.1	3.7	2.9	9.6	3.8	5.2	28.3	20.9	3.3	1.4	1.7	4.1	4.8
\$3,000 to \$3,499.....	100.0	72.2	60.5	5.1	2.9	2.0	6.6	3.5	3.0	25.0	20.7	1.8	1.0	0.7	2.5	2.9
\$3,500 to \$3,999.....	100.0	72.6	60.5	4.1	3.5	0.6	8.0	3.5	4.1	25.5	20.9	1.9	1.3	0.6	2.8	1.9
\$4,000 to \$4,499.....	100.0	74.6	64.4	4.6	3.2	1.3	5.7	3.1	2.4	24.7	20.1	1.7	1.3	0.4	2.9	0.7
\$4,500 to \$4,999.....	100.0	72.7	63.2	2.6	2.0	0.6	6.9	4.0	2.8	26.7	22.2	1.6	0.7	0.7	2.8	0.6
\$5,000 to \$5,999.....	100.0	73.5	63.7	3.2	2.5	0.6	6.6	4.3	2.2	25.9	21.2	1.8	1.4	0.3	2.9	0.5
\$6,000 to \$6,999.....	100.0	72.0	61.9	3.2	2.6	0.6	6.9	5.1	1.3	27.4	22.3	1.6	1.4	0.1	3.5	0.5
\$7,000 to \$9,999.....	100.0	67.9	58.2	3.2	2.6	0.5	6.5	5.4	0.9	31.4	24.5	2.1	1.8	0.2	4.8	0.7
\$10,000 to \$14,999.....	100.0	59.2	41.1	8.6	7.8	0.5	9.5	8.6	0.8	40.2	27.9	5.0	4.6	0.1	7.3	0.6
\$15,000 and over.....	100.0	47.3	18.9	18.9	16.5	2.4	9.5	8.5	1.0	49.8	21.6	18.0	14.3	1.0	10.2	2.9
Median income.....	\$4,421	\$4,562	\$4,764	\$3,111	\$4,544	\$1,587	\$3,821	\$5,444	\$2,244	\$4,657	\$4,772	\$2,954	\$4,981	\$1,622	\$4,778	\$1,445
URBAN																
All families.....	100.0	65.6	57.3	3.6	3.4	0.1	4.7	4.4	0.3	28.1	23.4	2.3	2.0	0.2	2.4	5.6
Median income.....	\$4,840	\$4,989	\$4,950	\$4,622	\$4,716	(⁵)	\$5,556	\$5,648	(⁵)	\$5,172	\$5,059	\$4,878	\$5,000	(⁵)	\$6,742	\$1,586
RURAL NONFARM																
All families.....	100.0	67.2	55.6	4.9	4.0	0.8	6.7	4.8	1.7	27.0	20.6	3.2	2.5	0.4	3.2	4.9
Median income.....	\$4,328	\$4,462	\$4,482	\$4,202	\$4,673	(⁵)	\$4,348	\$4,974	(⁵)	\$4,519	\$4,349	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	\$1,243
RURAL FARM																
All families.....	100.0	65.6	17.4	19.6	1.3	17.2	28.6	1.0	26.1	28.9	7.6	9.5	0.5	8.3	11.9	4.8
Median income.....	\$2,111	\$2,214	\$2,902	\$1,639	(⁵)	\$1,491	\$2,234	(⁵)	\$2,120	\$2,241	\$2,775	\$1,622	(⁵)	\$1,503	\$2,780	(⁵)

¹ Includes a relatively small number of families reporting no money income, not shown separately.² Includes a relatively small number of families reporting both farm and nonfarm self-employment income, not shown separately.³ Includes a relatively small number of families reporting income from wages or salary, and from both nonfarm and farm self-employment, not shown separately.⁴ Includes a relatively small number of families reporting income other than earnings and both nonfarm and farm self-employment income, not shown separately.⁵ Median not shown where there were fewer than 100 cases in the sample reporting on income.

Table 11.--TOTAL INCOME, 1944 TO 1955--DISTRIBUTION OF FAMILIES AND UNRELATED INDIVIDUALS IN HOUSEHOLDS BY TOTAL MONEY INCOME, FOR THE UNITED STATES, URBAN AND RURAL

(The figures in this table are limited to families and individuals living in dwelling units only, to facilitate historical comparisons. The small number of families and individuals residing in hotels, lodgishouses, and similar places are excluded here)

Total money income	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944
FAMILIES AND UNRELATED INDIVIDUALS												
United States												
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under \$500.....	6.2	7.5	7.6	7.0	7.8	9.4	9.4	7.9	8.4	(1)	10.0	11.9
\$500 to \$999.....	7.2	7.4	6.7	7.5	7.4	8.4	9.1	8.3	8.4	(1)	9.5	11.3
\$1,000 to \$1,499.....	6.3	6.3	5.7	6.5	5.9	6.9	7.9	8.0	8.7	(1)	9.1	11.5
\$1,500 to \$1,999.....	5.6	5.9	5.5	6.1	6.5	7.3	7.9	7.8	9.0	(1)	12.0	10.6
\$2,000 to \$2,499.....	5.8	5.8	6.3	7.1	7.9	9.0	10.2	10.2	11.0	(1)	12.4	11.2
\$2,500 to \$2,999.....	5.5	6.4	6.2	7.2	7.6	8.5	9.8	9.6	9.9	(1)	11.5	9.5
\$3,000 to \$3,499.....	7.4	7.3	7.6	9.2	9.5	10.7	10.1	10.7	10.1	(1)	9.3	9.4
\$3,500 to \$3,999.....	6.7	7.4	7.6	8.2	9.0	8.1	7.8	8.1	7.5	(1)	6.0	6.7
\$4,000 to \$4,499.....	7.4	7.5	7.6	7.2	8.1	6.9	5.9	6.7	6.0	(1)	5.0	4.2
\$4,500 to \$4,999.....	6.4	6.3	6.4	6.4	5.7	5.0	4.5	4.7	4.2	(1)	3.4	3.7
\$5,000 to \$5,999.....	11.1	10.4	11.3	10.2	9.3	7.7	6.8	7.1	6.7	(1)	5.3	4.1
\$6,000 to \$9,999.....	19.1	16.7	16.7	14.0	12.3	9.3	8.3	8.5	7.7	(1)	5.3	4.2
\$10,000 and over.....	5.3	4.9	4.6	3.5	3.1	2.8	2.3	2.5	2.5	(1)	1.3	1.6
Median income.....	\$3,948	\$3,730	\$3,789	\$3,467	\$3,368	\$3,025	\$2,783	\$2,909	\$2,727	(1)	\$2,379	\$2,209
Urban and Rural Nonfarm												
Median income.....	\$4,195	\$3,949	\$3,981	\$3,611	\$3,546	\$3,188	\$2,989	\$3,101	\$2,900	\$2,659	\$2,595	\$2,410
Rural Farm												
Median income.....	\$1,937	\$1,803	\$1,926	\$2,011	\$1,953	\$1,790	\$1,462	\$1,861	\$1,781	(1)	\$1,291	\$1,157
FAMILIES												
United States												
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under \$500.....	3.4	4.6	4.7	4.1	4.4	5.8	5.9	4.8	4.3	(1)	5.8	7.5
\$500 to \$999.....	4.3	4.2	3.9	4.4	4.8	5.7	6.2	5.8	6.4	(1)	7.7	9.5
\$1,000 to \$1,499.....	5.0	5.6	4.9	5.3	5.3	6.2	7.2	7.1	7.8	(1)	8.4	10.2
\$1,500 to \$1,999.....	4.9	5.4	5.0	5.5	6.1	7.0	7.6	7.4	8.8	(1)	12.1	10.4
\$2,000 to \$2,499.....	5.5	5.5	5.7	6.7	7.6	9.0	10.2	10.4	11.3	(1)	13.0	11.7
\$2,500 to \$2,999.....	5.5	6.4	6.0	7.5	7.8	8.9	10.4	10.1	10.7	(1)	12.5	10.6
\$3,000 to \$3,499.....	7.4	7.6	7.6	9.8	9.9	11.6	11.2	11.6	11.4	(1)	10.3	11.0
\$3,500 to \$3,999.....	7.2	7.9	8.2	8.8	9.8	9.0	8.8	9.1	8.3	(1)	7.0	7.9
\$4,000 to \$4,499.....	8.1	8.4	8.6	8.2	9.2	7.9	6.8	7.6	6.9	(1)	5.8	5.0
\$4,500 to \$4,999.....	7.3	7.2	7.3	7.2	6.4	5.7	5.3	5.4	4.8	(1)	3.9	4.3
\$5,000 to \$5,999.....	12.7	11.9	13.2	11.9	10.8	9.0	7.8	8.1	7.7	(1)	6.1	5.0
\$6,000 to \$9,999.....	22.4	19.6	19.8	16.6	14.4	11.0	9.8	9.8	8.9	(1)	6.1	5.1
\$10,000 and over.....	6.2	5.8	5.4	4.2	3.6	3.2	2.6	2.8	2.7	(1)	1.4	1.8
Median income.....	\$4,420	\$4,167	\$4,233	\$3,889	\$3,714	\$3,319	\$3,107	\$3,190	\$3,033	(1)	\$2,621	\$2,533
Urban and Rural Nonfarm												
Median income.....	\$4,705	\$4,406	\$4,462	\$4,111	\$3,913	\$3,497	\$3,324	\$3,391	\$3,207	\$2,981	\$2,857	\$2,794
Rural Farm												
Median income.....	\$2,117	\$1,968	\$2,131	\$2,226	\$2,131	\$1,970	\$1,587	\$2,034	\$1,958	(1)	\$1,410	\$1,272
UNRELATED INDIVIDUALS												
United States												
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under \$500.....	19.9	21.9	21.7	20.2	25.5	28.1	27.1	26.0	31.0	(1)	34.2	31.6
\$500 to \$999.....	22.1	23.5	20.6	21.6	21.2	22.2	23.6	22.9	19.7	(1)	19.7	19.2
\$1,000 to \$1,499.....	12.9	10.2	9.7	12.3	9.0	10.5	11.0	13.0	13.4	(1)	13.6	17.3
\$1,500 to \$1,999.....	8.9	8.4	8.1	9.1	9.0	9.0	9.5	10.0	10.5	(1)	11.6	11.3
\$2,000 to \$2,499.....	7.5	7.5	9.7	9.3	9.4	9.3	9.9	9.4	9.3	(1)	8.9	9.1
\$2,500 to \$2,999.....	5.5	6.8	7.4	5.9	6.6	6.3	6.9	6.1	5.5	(1)	5.5	4.6
\$3,000 to \$3,499.....	7.3	5.9	7.7	6.6	7.3	5.7	4.5	5.5	3.3	(1)	3.4	2.6
\$3,500 to \$3,999.....	4.1	5.0	4.8	5.4	4.6	3.5	2.8	2.4	2.7	(1)	0.6	1.5
\$4,000 to \$4,499.....	3.5	3.1	2.9	2.6	2.6	2.0	1.9	1.5	1.1	(1)	0.3	0.9
\$4,500 to \$4,999.....	2.1	1.9	2.5	2.4	1.5	1.1	0.4	1.1	0.8	(1)	0.7	0.7
\$5,000 to \$5,999.....	2.7	3.0	2.2	2.1	1.8	1.0	1.4	0.8	0.9	(1)	0.3	0.4
\$6,000 to \$9,999.....	3.0	2.0	1.7	2.0	1.3	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.8	(1)	0.8	0.5
\$10,000 and over.....	0.8	0.7	1.1	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	1.0	(1)	0.3	0.4
Median income.....	\$1,310	\$1,225	\$1,397	\$1,332	\$1,180	\$992	\$984	\$1,042	\$983	(1)	\$899	\$979
Urban and Rural Nonfarm												
Median income.....	\$1,371	\$1,312	\$1,489	\$1,410	\$1,285	\$1,079	\$1,042	\$1,148	\$1,077	\$1,105	\$976	\$1,057
Rural Farm												
Median income.....	\$635	\$583	\$589	\$665	\$733	\$532	\$500	\$533	\$582	(1)	\$401	\$461

¹ Comparable figures not available.

Table 12.--TYPE OF INCOME--DISTRIBUTION OF FAMILIES AND UNRELATED INDIVIDUALS BY WAGE OR SALARY INCOME, NONFARM SELF-EMPLOYMENT INCOME, FARM SELF-EMPLOYMENT INCOME, AND INCOME OTHER THAN EARNINGS, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1955

Income	Wage or salary income			Nonfarm self-employment income		
	Families and unrelated individuals	Families	Unrelated individuals	Families and unrelated individuals	Families	Unrelated individuals
TOTAL						
Number.....thousands..	52,609	42,843	9,766	52,609	42,843	9,766
Number with specified type of income.....thousands..	41,545	35,962	5,583	5,567	5,103	464
Percent of those with specified type of income..	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under \$500.....	6.8	5.8	13.4	20.5	19.2	34.0
\$500 to \$999.....	5.4	4.1	14.0	7.8	7.4	12.3
\$1,000 to \$1,499.....	4.9	4.1	9.8	5.6	5.2	9.6
\$1,500 to \$1,999.....	4.8	4.1	9.5	6.5	6.0	12.3
\$2,000 to \$2,499.....	6.1	5.3	10.9	6.5	6.7	4.6
\$2,500 to \$2,999.....	5.9	5.5	8.8	4.6	4.7	3.1
\$3,000 to \$3,499.....	8.5	8.1	10.8	5.6	5.8	2.8
\$3,500 to \$3,999.....	7.6	7.7	6.9	4.5	4.8	1.9
\$4,000 to \$4,499.....	8.3	8.7	6.0	5.6	5.6	4.9
\$4,500 to \$4,999.....	7.1	7.7	3.1	3.5	3.6	2.8
\$5,000 to \$5,999.....	11.8	13.1	3.3	7.2	7.5	4.0
\$6,000 to \$6,999.....	8.2	9.2	2.0	4.5	4.7	2.5
\$7,000 to \$9,999.....	11.1	12.6	1.2	6.9	7.4	1.2
\$10,000 to \$14,999.....	3.1	3.5	0.3	6.6	7.1	1.5
\$15,000 to \$24,999.....	0.4	0.5	0.1	2.4	2.4	2.5
\$25,000 and over.....	0.1	0.1	...	1.8	1.9	...
Median income of specified type for those with such income.....	\$4,000	\$4,305	\$2,151	\$2,837	\$3,069	\$1,193
HEAD YEAR-ROUND FULL-TIME WORKER						
Percent of those with specified type of income.....	68.6	70.2	56.8	72.7	73.3	(1)
Median income of specified type for those with such income.....	\$4,647	\$4,881	\$2,923	\$3,679	\$3,852	(1)
Income	Farm self-employment income			Income other than earnings		
	Families and unrelated individuals	Families	Unrelated individuals	Families and unrelated individuals	Families	Unrelated individuals
TOTAL						
Number.....thousands..	52,609	42,843	9,766	52,609	42,843	9,766
Number with specified type of income.....thousands..	4,412	4,181	231	18,029	14,070	3,959
Percent of those with specified type of income..	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under \$500.....	45.9	45.6	(1)	34.7	36.5	28.1
\$500 to \$999.....	14.6	14.6	(1)	29.2	25.5	42.5
\$1,000 to \$1,499.....	10.5	10.2	(1)	15.6	15.5	15.8
\$1,500 to \$1,999.....	7.5	7.3	(1)	8.0	8.6	5.8
\$2,000 to \$2,499.....	7.3	7.7	(1)	4.9	5.5	2.3
\$2,500 to \$2,999.....	3.1	3.2	(1)	1.9	2.1	1.2
\$3,000 to \$3,499.....	3.0	3.2	(1)	1.5	1.6	1.2
\$3,500 to \$3,999.....	1.3	1.3	(1)	0.8	0.9	0.4
\$4,000 to \$4,499.....	2.0	2.1	(1)	0.6	0.6	0.6
\$4,500 to \$4,999.....	0.8	0.9	(1)	0.4	0.4	0.2
\$5,000 to \$5,999.....	1.2	1.2	(1)	0.7	0.7	0.6
\$6,000 to \$6,999.....	0.7	0.8	(1)	0.4	0.4	0.3
\$7,000 to \$9,999.....	1.0	1.0	(1)	0.6	0.7	0.2
\$10,000 to \$14,999.....	0.4	0.4	(1)	0.4	0.4	0.3
\$15,000 to \$24,999.....	0.4	0.4	(1)	0.2	0.2	0.2
\$25,000 and over.....	0.2	0.2	(1)	0.2	0.2	0.4
Median income of specified type for those with such income.....	\$640	\$651	(1)	\$762	\$765	\$758
HEAD YEAR-ROUND FULL-TIME WORKER						
Percent of those with specified type of income.....	73.7	76.1	(1)	41.4	48.4	15.5
Median income of specified type for those with such income.....	\$783	\$776	(1)	\$513	\$504	\$596

¹ Percent and median not shown where there were fewer than 100 cases in the sample reporting with specified type of income.

Table 13.--SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS, 1939, 1951, AND 1955--MEDIAN WAGE OR SALARY INCOME OF PRIMARY FAMILIES AND UNRELATED INDIVIDUALS WITH WAGE OR SALARY INCOME, FOR THE UNITED STATES

Characteristics of primary family or individual	1955	1951	1939	Characteristics of primary family or individual	1955	1951	1939
COLOR				SIZE OF FAMILY			
White families and individuals.....	\$4,331	\$3,673	\$1,325	2 persons.....	\$3,835	\$3,365	\$1,219
Nonwhite families and individuals..	2,418	1,943	489	3 persons.....	4,417	3,694	1,297
				4 persons.....	4,646	3,891	1,374
				5 persons.....	4,506	3,952	1,322
				6 persons or more.....	4,146	3,556	1,134
SEX, MARITAL STATUS, AND AGE OF HEAD				FAMILIES BY NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE			
Families with male head, married, wife present.....	\$4,467	\$3,773	\$1,319	None.....	\$4,227	\$3,662	\$1,368
Age of head:				1.....	4,343	3,662	1,315
Under 35 years.....	4,279	3,665	1,171	2.....	4,518	3,761	1,288
35 to 44 years.....	4,872	4,111	1,449	3 or more.....	4,157	3,544	956
45 to 54 years.....	4,944	3,957	1,481				
55 years and over.....	3,757	3,303	1,243				
Other families with male head.....	3,857	3,412	1,159				
Families with female head.....	2,651	2,407	909				

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